

Tom Horne
Superintendent

N·E·W·S

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Tuesday, November 22, 2005

ARIZONA SCHOOLS CHIEF TOM HORNE CAUTIONS SCHOOLS ON INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT IN BOOKS MADE AVAILABLE TO MINORS

PHOENIX (Tuesday, November 22, 2005) -- Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne today sent a letter to Arizona Superintendents, Principals and Charter Holders regarding inappropriate material in books that are available to minors in school. The book in question is called The Perks of Being a Wallflower, and there are some schools that may have this book available to students in their libraries.

“I encourage all schools to take a look at the material that is being made available to minors to assure the contents are appropriate for your population,” said Superintendent Horne.

A copy of the letter that was sent to Superintendents is attached.



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

November 22, 2005

Arizona School Superintendents, Principals and Charter Holders

Re: Inappropriateness of contents of books made available to minors

A constituent brought to our attention a book in an elementary school library called The Perks of Being a Wallflower. The book is designated as fourth grade reading level. I personally find the sexual material in this book extremely objectionable (see page 31, which contains a detailed scene of oral sex). The problem was magnified at this elementary school because Accelerated Reader has an especially large number of points for this book, which encourages fourth graders to read it.

You may wish to check whether The Perks of Being a Wallflower is being made available to minors in your schools, and if so, if it meets the adoption policies of your school or school district. You may also want to consider asking your library staff to review the books purchased for library use to assure the contents are appropriate for your population.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Horne".

Tom Horne